

PROPERTY PLANNING COMMON ELEMENTS

COMPONENTS OF MASTER PLANS

HABITATS AND THEIR MANAGEMENT

General Forest Management

Forest management activities follow the *Wisconsin Forest Management Guidelines* (PUB-FR-226-2011) as well as the *WDNR Silviculture and Forest Aesthetics Handbook* (2431.5), the *Public Forest Lands Handbook* (2460.5), the *Timber Sale Handbook* (2461), the *Old-growth and Old Forests Handbook* (2480.5), and Forestry Best Management Practices (BMPs) for water quality and invasive species. Consult these resources for additional detail and management considerations.

Forest management activities also follow all applicable [Broad Incidental Take Permits/Authorizations](#).

The following considerations apply generally across all forest types. Considerations specific to particular forest types can be found in cover type-specific Common Elements.

Management Considerations

- Retain snags, living and dead cavity trees, and coarse woody habitat whenever their retention does not conflict with other management objectives or pose a danger.
- Leave long-lived reserve trees as individuals or in groups to provide timber, wildlife, and aesthetic value whenever their retention does not conflict with other management objectives.
- Salvage of trees damaged by wind, ice, fire, insects, and disease may occur where it is not restricted by land classification or management objectives for the area.
- Provide a diversity of size and age classes across forest types. Where appropriate, extend the rotation age for some stands of oak, central hardwood, bottomland hardwood, swamp hardwood, northern hardwood, red pine, white pine, yellow birch, and swamp conifer in order to increase the abundance of older-aged forest habitat. Allow old-growth and old forest to develop in some areas through natural processes, passive management, or active management to encourage old-growth characteristics.
- Use intermediate forest treatments such as release or crown thinning as appropriate to develop young stands, improve species composition, and increase timber quality.
- Maintain site hydrology for lowland forest types (e.g., bottomland hardwood, swamp hardwood, white cedar, tamarack); restore where feasible.
- Follow WDNR and Wisconsin Council on Forestry *Wisconsin's Forestland Woody Biomass Harvesting Guidelines* when conducting forest management in cases where biomass harvesting is compatible with site objectives.
- Require loggers to utilize established best management practices for all aspects of conducting timber harvest and removal, and require logging equipment to be cleaned prior to entry to and exit of state lands in order to prevent the spread of invasive plants.
- Apply silvicultural practices in a manner that reduces the spread of harmful insects, diseases, and invasive species.



- Control of invasive species, non-commercial forest manipulation, and prescribed fire may occur.
- Use research and monitoring information on regeneration and changes in composition and structure to aid in future management decisions.

